

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 067387
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-----260352Z 120036 /14

P 260236Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, KS

SUBJECT: COMMERCE MINISTERS MEETING

1. LETTER DATED MARCH 24, 1977 FROM COMMERCE SECRETARY
KREPS TO MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY CHANG IN I
RESPONSE TO HIS SUGGESTION THAT EIGHTH U.S.-KOREA COMMERCE
MINISTERS MEETING BE HELD IN APRIL, 1977 HAS BEEN

DELIVERED TO KOREAN EMBASSY FOR TRANSMITTAL TO MINISTER
VIA KOREAN DIPLOMATIC POUCH.

2. TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:

DEAR MR. MINISTER:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF JANUARY 21 AND FOR YOUR
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ENCOURAGING REMARKS. IN THE BRIEF TIME SINCE ASSUMING MY
PRESENT DUTIES I HAVE BECOME GREATLY AWARE OF THE CHAL-
LENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES AWAITING ME.

I SHARE WITH YOU A SENSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RELATION-
SHIP BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE UNITED STATES.
IT IS HEARTENING TO NOTE THE REMARKABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

OF YOUR COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY DURING THE PAST YEAR, AND

TO KNOW THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS HAD A ROLE IN THAT DEVELOPMENT. I WISH TO EXPRESS CONFIDENCE IN THE CONTINUED CLOSE COMMERCIAL TIES BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER HOLDING THE EIGHTH COMMERCE MINISTERS MEETING AFTER I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP A FIRM PLAN OF FUTURE ACTIVITIES, AND I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO ANY POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS.

IF YOUR SCHEDULE PERMITS, HOWEVER, I WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE YOU DURING YOUR APRIL NORTH AMERICAN TRIP. AT THAT TIME THERE COULD BE A BRIEF EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON IMPORTANT ISSUES. WE MIGHT PLAN SUCH A VISIT FOR THE MORNING OF APRIL 8 AT 10 O'CLOCK, IF THAT MEETS WITH YOUR CONVENIENCE.

I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING AND CONSULTING WITH YOU.

SINCERELY, JUANITA M. KREPS

YIE JOON CHANG
MINISTER
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
REPUBLIC OF KOREA
SEOUL, KOREA

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3. PROPOSED CALL ON APRIL 8 HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY ROK EMBASSY. WE ASSUME MINISTER CHANG WILL WISH DISCUSS POSSIBLE TIMING OF EIGHTH MINISTERIAL, NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR, AND OTHER TRADE ISSUES. EMBASSY COMMENTS AS TO ANY OTHER TOPICS MINISTER CHANG LIKELY TO RAISE, AND SUGGESTIONS AS TO SUBJECTS SECRETARY KREPS MIGHT INITIATE, WOULD BE APPRECIATED ASAP.
VANCE

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